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Dr. *THOMSON*'s

C A S E

O F T H E

Right Hon. *Tho. Winnington*, Esq;

U P O N

Fundamental Principles in *Physick*.

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By *G. DOWMAN*, M. D.

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*Quod Medicina ignorat, non curat.*

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L O N D O N :

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T O  
Dr. *THOMSON*.

**I**T appears to me very difficult, from the Writing of Dr. *Thomson*, to discern whether he proposes the Vindication of his Conduct, with Regard to Mr. *Winnington's* Case, or the Acknowledgment of his Incapacity ; it seems rather a confus'd Mixture of the one and the other ; and we see as little Design in the Drift of his Discourse, as there was in the Treatment of his Patient ; for, from the Beginning to the



End of the Apology, he does not once inform us simply of the Character of the Disease, only that he was deceiv'd in it \*; which he must be, since no Physician besides himself ever took the † *Diagnostics* of such a Disease for Signs of a Rheumatick Fever.

1. He says, "As all the Reformers, in their Beginning, have been branded with the odious Names of Heresy and Faction; no Wonder an Attempt to introduce one in Physick should be attended with the same Fatality." The Comparison is quite improper, and I can boldly say, that if the Systems of all the Reformers had been founded upon Principles equally and demonstratively weak as this Gentleman's Practice, their Reforms could not long have subsisted with any Credit, or supported their Characters but in Imagination.

Now let us come to the Doctor's reform'd Practice, which, if judiciously consider'd, may produce very good Effects, by serving as a Buoy to prevent any Physician approaching it. He says, "He shall lay before the Publick a fair State of Mr.

Win-

\* Page 16.

† Symptoms.

“ *Winnington's Case* unclouded with the  
 “ Sophistry of Argument, and supported  
 “ only by the Evidence of Facts: After  
 “ stating the various Symptoms that at-  
 “ tended that Distemper, he will explain  
 “ the different Applications which he judg'd  
 “ conducive to the Cure.” A very fine  
 Speech indeed, were the Faculty out of  
 the Question; but these learned Gentlemen  
 will immediately see the Weakness and the  
 Insufficiency of his Attempt: He makes a  
 capital Blunder at his first setting out, talks  
 of stating the various Symptoms that at-  
 tended this Distemper, without ever men-  
 tioning a Word of the Distemper, or giv-  
 ing it its proper Character: He'll permit  
 me to tell him, that this is the most dif-  
 ficult, and nicest Part of Physick, and the  
 very first Thing that a Physician should  
 assure himself of, if he proposes to succeed:  
 If he fails in this Point, he treats Diseases  
 as blind Men judge of Colours. Nothing  
 is more equivocal than Symptoms, and no-  
 thing more empty than to amuse ourselves  
 in treating them; but this the Doctor appears  
 to



to be unacquainted with, tho' he affects the Personage of a Reformer. I wonder what an Opinion we should have of a Surgeon, who amus'd himself in treating the Fever, Head-Ach, and other Symptoms in his Patient, and neglected reducing the Fractures, and dressing the Wounds that occasion'd them.

He says, " The latter End of *March*,  
 " Mr. *Winnington* was seiz'd suddenly with  
 " a Shivering, Head-Ach, great Lassitude,  
 " with wandering Rheumatick Pains, &c.

As Diagnostics or Symptoms well characteris'd, conduct us to the Knowledge of a Disease, so here we shall examine whether the Doctor was mistaken in them, or not. It appears from the whole State of the Case, as given by him, that the Symptoms were those of a malignant Fever from the very Beginning, and not a Rheumatick Fever, as the Doctor imagin'd : The Shivering, the Head-Ach, the great Lassitude, were Marks of Malignity, confirm'd by others which succeeded them. A Rheumatick Fever, which is generally caus'd by an Extravasation of Lymph upon the Membranes of the Muscles, never  
 yet

yet produced the like Symptoms: But, as it will, doubtless, be expected of me by the Doctor, and by the Publick in general, to produce Reasons for what I say, so I shall give as accurate an Account as possible of malignant Fevers, and their Symptoms.

There are great Debates amongst Physicians concerning what ought to be understood by malignant Fevers, or how they may be distinguish'd: Some pretend, that they are Fevers, which threaten the intire Destruction of the Body: There are others, that know none but Purple or Spotted Fevers; and several those Fevers where some Venom is suspected, principally, because in these Diseases we remark, that Fevers which appear at first to be but of little Consequence, are attended with Accidents much to be fear'd, accompany'd with an universal Lowness of Spirits, which shews itself from the very Beginning of the Disease.

The antient Physicians call'd Malignant Fevers those which were dangerous or mortal, as we see in *Hyppocrates*, and in some Works of *Galen*: But, if we would give a just Idea of the Appellation, we ought not  
to



to comprehend fynoc, ardent, or putrid Fevers, altho' these are not exempt from dangerous Symptoms, unless there is something extraordinary, which makes it probable there's a hidden Venom, which renders these Fevers malignant.

Purple Spots are not Pathognomonick, or certain Signs of a malignant Fever, since these Spots often appear in scorbutick Persons, and even when they have Fevers; besides, there are many Fevers, which have Malignity without the Appearance of any Sort of Spots.

A malignant Fever, as we have already said, is principally known by the considerable Accidents that immediately appear, and which all answer to these following Symptoms: In the Beginning, and even in the Course of this Disease, the Pulse is small, and quick, and sometimes like to that of a Person in his natural State; at other times the Pulse is much rais'd, and beats with Impetuosity; the Heat is temperate, but the Patients are commonly depress'd, and complain of a Sickness in the Stomach, and Inclinations to vomit, and all these Symptoms often shew themselves from the  
very



very first Days of the Disease, which makes it difficult to distinguish but by those who are profoundly learned in the Science. Some Patients have an unquenchable Thirst, with a slow and small Pulse; others are not thirsty, altho' they have a burning Heat over the whole Body. The Head-Ach is commonly very violent, the Patients do not sleep, and fall into Deliriums, or else they become like to Lethargicks; they are fatigued with Shiverings, that come without Order several times in the Day; they find themselves heavy, and without Strength; their Urine is sometimes perfectly fine, and at other times foul and turbid; the beating of the Arteries is more rais'd towards the End of the Disease: Sometimes the Patients void Worms by Stool, they sweat profusely, their Countenances appear troubled, the Breath smells ill, the Mind seems full of Fear and Despair; sometimes there appear Tumours, Exanthems, or purple Spots upon the Skin, frequent bleeding at the Nose, the Throat sore, and sometimes Pustules in the Mouth and Throat, which hinder the Patient from swallowing, or else there are little Ulcers,

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that

that have not been preceded by Pustules ; the Tendons of the Wrists are often agitated, the Eyes become red and inflam'd, the Patient becomes deafish, and the Head shakes.

These are the proper and true Characters of a malignant Fever, but they are not all necessary to distinguish it : It is even rare, that in many of these Diseases we find all these Signs, nevertheless, they are the only Pathognomonics of this Disease, tho' several of them are met with in other Affections : Again, they proceed from different Causes, and we seldom see the same Proportion between the different Symptoms : For Example, we don't find that with a slight Fever, or a Rheumatic Fever, the Patients have an insupportable Thirst, or a great Delirium, and an universal Debility, as is remarkable in this Disease. This is all I shall say at present on malignant Fevers, as I propose to give the Publick a Treatise concerning them some time hence.

Now, to return to the Case. “ On the 6th  
 “ of *April*, the Day of Mr. *Winnington's* Re-  
 “ turn, he was in as high a Fever as Man  
 “ could



“ could bear.” The Doctor had order’d his Patient Physick, and to observe a low Regimen; which, had he observ’d, to do the Doctor Justice, in all Appearance, the Distemper would have been moderated, but this was neglected. In this Case, as it thus stood, there were sure Indications for Bleeding and a Glyster; the Liquors order’d to be drank were very proper, the Diet not at all amiss, had he been in a State to have made use of it.

“ April 7. In the Morning the Symptoms were perceiv’d rather to increase, and a Sweating had begun in the Night, cooling Physick was order’d.” Had there been a Tension on, the Hypogastre, or Gripings, there would have been an Indication for Purging; but, as this appears not to be the Case, Purging must augment the Inflammation by disturbing the Humors, and giving an extraordinary Motion to the Blood. *Hyppocrates* seems to be of this Opinion, when he says, in his 22d. Aphorism, Section 1. *Medicamentis educendo ac movendo sunt, non cruda neque per initia, nisi turgeant; sed plerumque non tur-*  

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gent.

gent. This great Man assures, That we must not evacuate till after the Coction of Humours, except in Diseases where the Matter that causes them threatens to attack all at once the principal Parts of the Body. *Hippocrates* adds, That this Matter is very rarely form'd, from whence we generally conclude, that we ought to wait for Signs of Coction, and that we should not evacuate but very rarely in the Beginning, or in the Course of Diseases.

“ *April 8.* In the Morning the Patient  
 “ had slept but little, and had sweated profusely the preceding Night: The Fever,  
 “ Pulse, and Urine, were as high, as if no  
 “ Evacuations had been, Bleeding was again directed.” I should have done the same; but here are Purging-Medicines order'd the same Day again: This I cannot agree with, as the Disease was not in the *prima Via*, but in the Blood and Juices; Nor can I agree with the Doctor's Reasons for not ordering Opiates here; he might have given them with great Success, as there was no Peripneumony, or Defluction upon the Lungs, they would have calm'd the  
 im-



impetuous Motion of the Blood, given Rest, and prevented the Inflammation of the Brain, which the Doctor thought they would bring on.

“ *April 9.* The Sweats had been excessive in the Night, which made the Doctor think it improper that his Patient should be confin’d to his Bed.” Here the Doctor committed a terrible Blunder, by interrupting the Sweats, which seem’d to have been the Outlets which Nature had made choice of, in throwing off the Disease. Had I prescrib’d, I should have directed Cordial, yet not Spirituous Medicines, to have seconded her Design; and also a Narcotic, or composing-Remedy, to have been taken at Night. Instead of that the Doctor thought it necessary to order a Manna-Draught.

“ *April 10.* The same Difficulty remain’d of finding any Medicine that would move the Body.” The Doctor might have thought on Gambouge, had not the Jalap-Medicine been strong enough. “ This was the Reason for directing Glysters, besides a Repetition of  
“ the

“ the Purging-Medicines ; all this produc'd  
 “ but three or four Stools.” This plainly  
 shews, that the Humours did not abound  
 either in the Ventricule, or in the Bowels,  
 that it was fatiguing Nature to no End, and  
 augmenting the Inflammation, so that it  
 must be very difficult to justify the Rash-  
 ness of the Purging-Treatment.

“ *April 11.* The Patient slept but little  
 “ in the Night, and his Sweats increas'd ;  
 “ especially towards the Morning.” Nature,  
 'tis plain, was again struggling to surmount  
 the Malignity of the Disease, and the Treat-  
 ment which depress'd her : But here the  
 Doctor flank'd her, and as it were, order'd  
 more Blood to be taken away, more Physick,  
 and more Glysters. Here the Symptoms  
 began to decline, but 'tis plain the Cause  
 existed always the same ; these Changes  
 frequently happen in malignant Fevers.

*April 12.* No Mention of the State of  
 the Disorder.

“ *April 13.* We were inform'd, that  
 “ the Sweating had return'd in the Night  
 “ almost as much as ever ; the Water had  
 “ only a light Cloud in it, and was very  
 “ high-colour'd ; the Fever seem'd to rise,  
 “ and



“ and the Pulse was very full, and swift.”  
 Bleeding, Purging, and Glystering, were  
 again thought necessary; strange Infatua-  
 tion !

“ *April 14.* The Symptoms were much  
 “ as the preceding Day ; the Sweating in  
 “ the Night had been something less, the  
 “ Hands rather more swell’d, but the Wa-  
 “ ter did not break.” This is very easy  
 to be accounted for ; the Diminution of  
 the Sweating must augment the Swelling,  
 and affect the Urine. : “ But the Doctor  
 “ thought taking much Blood from his  
 “ Patient in that Condition very improper,  
 “ being apprehensive it might bring on a  
 “ Dropsy, which is often the Consequence  
 “ of too great an Effusion of Blood.” Here  
 the Doctor seems to suspect bad Conse-  
 quences from his Darling Practice ; yet,  
 notwithstanding, he soon falls into it again :  
 He is apprehensive of bringing on a Drop-  
 sy, where a Phthific was more to be fear’d.  
 Again, if a Dropsy had been brought on,  
 it would have been a happy Exchange,  
 and easily remedy’d in its Infancy.

“ *April*

“ *April 15.* Mr. *Winnington* continued  
 “ much in the same Way as when Dr.  
 “ *Broxholm* left him, only the Rheumatick  
 “ Pains abated, tho’ the Fever still con-  
 “ tinued ; the Medicines the same.” We  
 see the Doctor yet in’ the Dark, as to the  
 Disease ; he says, the Rheumatick Pains  
 abated, tho’ the Fever continued : He ought  
 to reflect, that, if it had been a Rheuma-  
 tick Fever, which proceeds from Pain, the  
 Fever must have diminish’d, if the Pains  
 had abated.

“ *April 16.* The Water suddenly grew,  
 “ pale, and the Quantity was very great ;  
 “ the Patient’s Hearing was not so good,  
 “ nor had he slept, as he us’d to do, in  
 “ the Day, and after he went to Bed, till  
 “ in the Morning. He had three or four  
 “ Motions this Day from his cooling Phy-  
 “ sick.” It’s likely, from these Accidents,  
 that the Sweating was near suppress’d, and  
 that Nature strove to carry off the Serosity of  
 the Blood by another Secretion, had it not  
 been obstructed by more Physick.

“ *April 17.* The Doctor says, the Pa-  
 “ tient slept rather too much, it appear-  
 “ ing



“ ing to be something lethargick.” Mark of Malignity, and where Blisters might have been apply’d with Advantage. What is very pleasant the Doctor assumes a prophetick Spirit, he says, “ But that the Pulse beat very  
 “ hard and quick, as if they presaged a Hæ-  
 “ morrhage.” Here, I believe, he excels the whole Faculty; I scarce can think any of those Gentlemen know so far as that by the Pulse. “ Now the Doctor began to  
 “ be in Doubt, as he says, whether he had  
 “ not been too remiss in Evacuations.” If he had ask’d me, I should have told him, that he had been a great deal too free in his Evacuations; and that, by continually bleeding, purging, and glystering, he must confuse the ordinary Fermentation, make all the Parts of the Body become languid, throw his Patient into Syncope, Convulsions, Spasms, and so extinguish the Flame of Life. Till now the Doctor took his Patient’s Illness for a Rheumatick Fever, since these are his own Words: “ I was now  
 “ convinced it was something more than a  
 “ common Rheumatick Fever.” Which shews that he acted the Part of a blind Man all the Way; nor does he now give  
 C the

the Disease a Name, but sums up a Heap of Symptoms, which Symptoms he does not know what to make of, since it's certain they have deceiv'd him all along. At last, the Doctor has found out his Patient's sore Throat; and at the same Time has discover'd a hard Name, and an easy Name for it; but it does not appear to be the one, or the other: They were more likely Ulcers that attend malignant Fevers, and might more properly be call'd *English* malignant Ulcers, than the Thrush, or the *Aphthæ*, or *Ægyptian*, or *Syrian* Ulcer; so that this appears pure Amusement. He says again, " That he imagin'd if the Fever, which govern'd then, could be kept under, there would be but little Danger." Here he agrees that the Fever was a Cause, and the Ulcer a Symptom: And by and by he tells Sir *Edward Hulse*, that he and Dr. *Broxbolme* confin'd themselves to the Thrush, all which shews to every Capacity, that he has been all this Time treating of Shadows.

" Now we are coming near to an End; the  
 " Thrush, as it's call'd, rather increas'd, and  
 " the Hæmorrhage had not in the least con-  
 " troul'd



“troul’d the Fever, the Pulse being hard-  
 “er, and swifter, than he had observ’d  
 “them in the Morning, since the first  
 “five Days.” And it is certain, that, had the  
 Doctor drawn to the last Pallet of Blood, even  
 in that there would have been a Propor-  
 tion of morbidick Matter capable of sup-  
 porting the Fermentation against Nature,  
 according to its Quantity, especially, as its  
 Motion was constantly quicken’d by Purges.  
 And I am asham’d for the Doctor, that he  
 could think of nothing in the whole *Materia*  
*Medica* all this while but Bleeding, Purg-  
 ing, and Glystering, which became now  
 quite an idle and ignorant Proceeding.  
 “Notwithstanding all this, the Doctor or-  
 “der’d still a larger Quantity of Blood to  
 “be taken away, than he had ever done  
 “before. He had two Motions the pre-  
 “ceding Night, and five this Day, by  
 “Glysters, and cooling Physick.” What  
 Constitution could support it?

“April 18. The Doctor was inform’d,  
 “that in the Night the Sweats return’d;  
 “that the Patient bled again at the Nose,  
 “and in the Morning brought up some  
 “Blood, whether from his Head, Lungs,

“ or Throat, he cannot determine.” Here  
 the Doctor seems to forget his Anatomy :  
 Hæmorrhages from the Head cannot be con-  
 ceal’d ; the Nose, or, Nafal Sinus, commu-  
 nicating with the Frontal, evidently demon-  
 strates it, had it come from the Ears, it  
 had put the Doctor out of all Doubt. The  
 Return of the Sweats in the Night, the  
 bleeding again at the Nose, and the bring-  
 ing up some Blood in the Morning, which  
 must be from the Lungs, discover’d an  
 excellent Constitution, and it was even  
 then Time to have given the Patient  
 Succour, had there been proper Remedies  
 apply’d ; for it is absolutely necessary to  
 support the Strength of the Patient in these,  
 as well as in all other Diseases, to re-esta-  
 blish the natural Fermentation of the Blood,  
 and to correct the Default of the Humours,  
 when too much coagulated, or too much  
 dissolv’d. “ Instead of which, Glysters, and  
 “ Bleeding, were repeated, two small Blis-  
 “ ters to the Arms ; and provided the for-  
 “ mer should not have a proper Effect, a  
 “ Dissolution of Manna, Nitre, and Rob  
 “ of Elder, &c.” I can’t conceive what  
 Affinity this last Jumble of Remedies could  
 have,



have, or what could be their Design. “ But  
 “ it was agreed, that Cordials, and Vola-  
 “ tiles, and what are term’d nervous Me-  
 “ dicines, were improper, (notwithstanding  
 “ he had now frequently Spasms) because  
 “ of the intense Heat and Putrefaction of the  
 “ Humours.” If the Doctor had suspected  
 a Dissolution of the Blood, or too great a  
 Rarefaction, he might have prescrib’d sul-  
 phurous Acids, and, by that Means, have  
 given it a better Consistence, and calm’d  
 its Motion; since he saw, and every-body  
 must see, that the intense Heat and Pu-  
 trefaction of the Humours, as he calls it,  
 were visibly augmented every Day, by  
 bleeding, purging, and glystering: So that  
 now it’s beyond all Dispute, the Doctor’s  
 new Mode was to oblige the Disease to  
 conform to the Remedies. Not unlike Dr.  
*Sylvia*, Physician to the late Duke of *Bour-*  
*bon*, who said, he would accustom the  
 Small-Pox to Bleeding, and so help’d to fill  
 half the Church-Yards in *Paris*.

“ *April 20.* This Morning all the Sym-  
 “ ptoms remain’d much in the same State,  
 “ only the Water was something higher  
 “ colour’d: But in the Afternoon the  
 “ Thrush

“ Thrush came forward, spread over most  
 “ Part of the Mouth, &c.” Signs of Death !  
 And tho’ he had such bad Success with  
 Purging all this while, yet he propos’d an-  
 other Purging - Medicine. This was the  
 Doctor’s last S ——— t. About Three he  
 was sent for to meet Dr. *Broxholme* and  
 Sir *Edward Hulse* ; and if Man, or Me-  
 dicine, could have brought Relief, Sir *Ed-  
 ward Hulse*, according to common Fame,  
 was capable, and would have answer’d the  
 Desires of his Friends, and the Pub-  
 lick in general. He might do like other  
 great Men, attempt a Remedy, tho’ he saw  
 the Subject perishing ; but then Nature  
 could not act, or correspond, she had been  
 too much depress’d, and only a Divinity  
 was capable of it, by forming a-new the  
 Blood, and nutritive Juices, which had been  
 lavishly, and without Reason, evacuated  
 away.

Some Persons take as much Pains to  
 expose their Weakness, as others do to hide  
 it ; ’tis an unlucky Planet that rules them  
 in that Moment : And, had not the Doctor  
 unthinkingly rous’d the Lion, by challeng-  
 ing, as it were, the whole Faculty to answer



a Piece very ill concerted, he might have practis'd many Years, and perhaps gone to the Grave with a tolerable Character ; and a great many Thousands would never have known a Word of his Capacity, or Conduct : But such is his Fate, that he has given a flagrant Occasion to every-body both to think, and judge ; and I am afraid it will be quite otherwise than he could wish, or desire.

“ The Doctor flatter'd himself, that he  
 “ had the Weapons both of Reason and  
 “ Authority for his Guard.” But, by this Time he may be convinc'd, that he had neither the one, nor the other ; he cannot accuse me of any ill-natur'd Reflections, or not writing in the Language of a Physician ; no ! my whole Design in the Affair is to lay down solid Principles upon the Subject in Dispute ; so that the World may be a Judge, as well as himself, whether or no his Proceedings in the present Case were justifiable. And I am so far from having any Animosity or Pique against the Doctor, that 'twould be a Pleasure to me to see him practise upon different Principles, and so gain the Confidence of the Publick.

If

If the Remarks which I have made upon Malignity are well receiv'd, and prove of any Advantage to the Publick in Diseases of this Nature, my Wishes will be compleated.

F I N I S.

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E R R A T A.

Page 11. the third and second Lines from the Bottom.

*Concocta medicamentis educenda ac movenda sunt, non cruda, neque per initia, nisi turgeant; sed plerumque non turgent.*